

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BONN 01427 01 OF 02 251648Z
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-02 ISO-00 /001 W
-----007494 251650Z /46
O 251638Z JAN 78 ZFF 4
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 5178

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 01427

NODIS

FOR UNDER SECRETARY OF THE ARMY LA BERGE

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: NATO MPOL
SUBJECT: TANK GUN

REF: STATE 19646

1. ON JANUARY 25, EMBOFF CONVEYED THE ESSENCE OF REFTEL TO STATE SECRETARY SCHNELL OF THE FEDERAL DEFENSE MINISTRY AND TO MR. EBERHARD, HEAD OF THE MINISTRY'S ARMAMENTS DIVISION. EMBOFF LEFT WITH THEM THE TEXT OF POINTS A THROUGH D OF PARA 3, REFTEL.

2. SCHNELL'S IMMEDIATE REACTION WAS THAT HE WAS "NOT ENTHUSIASTIC" ABOUT GOING TO WASHINGTON AND THAT HE FELT THE NEGOTIATIONS HAD NOW BECOME SUFFICIENTLY COMPLEX THAT OTHER MINISTRIES OF THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT WOULD HAVE TO BE INVOLVED. HE SAID HE WOULD CONSULT WITH MINISTER LEBER AND THEN INFORM THE EMBASSY OF THE DEFENSE MINISTRY'S DECISION.

3. WITHIN ABOUT TWO HOURS, SCHNELL PROVIDED THE EMBASSY WITH A FORMAL WRITTEN RESPONSE TO THE SUGGESTION THAT THE FRG SEND A DELEGATION TO WASHINGTON.

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BELOW IS THE EMBASSY'S INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF SCHNELL'S RESPONSE, FOLLOWED BY THE ORIGINAL GERMAN LANGUAGE TEXT.

4. BEGIN TEXT (INFORMAL EMBASSY TRANSLATION):

FOLLOWING CONSULTATION WITH MINISTER LEBER, I REQUEST

THAT YOU PASS THE FOLLOWING REPLY TO DR. LA BERGE:

"THE QUESTIONS YOU SENT US GO SO FAR BEYOND WHAT HAS ALREADY BEEN NEGOTIATED THAT RESOLUTION WITHIN THE FEDERAL MINISTRY OF DEFENSE IS NO LONGER POSSIBLE. THEREFORE, THE FEDERAL MINISTRY OF DEFENSE IS NOT IN A POSITION TO SEND A DELEGATION AT THIS TIME.

"WE ARE OF COURSE PREPARED TO SPEAK WITH DR. LA BERGE HERE (IN BONN) -- AS WAS FORESEEN PRIOR TO HIS RETURN FLIGHT ON MONDAY -- IN ORDER TO CLEAR UP THE UNRESOLVED QUESTIONS IN THE DRAFT JOINT MINUTES AND TO DISCUSS AND CLARIFY THE ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS AND REQUIREMENTS WHICH WERE DELIVERED TO US TODAY.

"IN THE INTEREST OF FRUITFUL COOPERATION AND STANDARDIZATION, WE WENT FAR TOWARD MEETING THE AMERICAN POSITIONS AND WISHES IN THE NEGOTIATIONS OVER THE WEEKEND. EVEN IF AN ADDITIONAL CONCESSION WERE NEGOTIABLE, PARTICULARLY IN THE CASE OF QUESTIONS CONCERNING EXPORT, IT WOULD BE NECESSARY FOR THIS PURPOSE TO CLARIFY THESE QUESTIONS IN OTHER DEPARTMENTS (FINANCE AND ECONOMICS MINISTRIES) AND WITH INDUSTRY.

"DEPENDING ON THE CIRCUMSTANCES, EVEN AN INVOLVEMENT OF THE PARLIAMENT MIGHT BE NECESSARY, SINCE THE
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PROPOSED CONDITIONS DEPART IN A DECISIVE WAY FROM PREVIOUS COMPARABLE AGREEMENTS."

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-----007629 251650Z /46

O 251638Z JAN 78 ZFF 4
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 5179

S E C R E T SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 01427

NODIS

BEGIN GERMAN LANGUAGE TEXT

NACH RUECKSPRACHE MIT HERRN MINISTER LEBER MOECHTE ICH
SIE BITTEN, FOLGENDE ANTWORT AN HERRN DR. LA BERGE
DURCHZUGEBEN:

"DIE UNS UEBERSANDTEN FRAGEN GEHEN SO WEIT UEBER DAS
BISHER VERHANDELTE HINAUS, DASS DIE KLAERUNG IM BMVG
ALLEIN NICHT MEHR MOEGLICH IST. DAHER SIEHT SICH DAS
BMVG NICHT IN DER LAGE, JETZT EINE DELEGATION ZU
ENTSENDEN.

"SELBSTVERSTAENDLICH SIND WIR BEREIT, ZUR ABKLAERUNG DER
AUS DEM PROTOKOLLENTWURF NOCH OFFENEN FRAGEN UND ZUR
ERLAEUTERUNG DER UNS HEUTE UEBERMITTELTEN ZUSAETZLICHEN
FRAGEN BZW. FORDERUNGEN MIT HERRN DR. LA BERGE HIER
ZU SPRECHEN, WIE ES AUCH VOR SEINEM RUECKFLUG AM
MONTAG IN AUSSICHT GESTELLT WORDEN WAR.

"IN DEN AM WOCHENENDE GEFUEHRTEN VERHANDLUNGEN SIND WIR
DEN AMERIKANISCHEN AUFFASSUNGEN UND WUENSCHEN IM
INTERESSE EINER FRUCHTBAREN KOOPERATION UND DAMIT
STANDARDISIERUNG WEIT ENTGEGENGEKOMMEN. SELBST WENN
EIN WEITERES ENTGEGENKOMMEN, INSBESONDERE BEI DEN DEN
EXPORT BETREFFENDEN FRAGEN, VERHANDELBAR WAERE,
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BEDUERFTE ES DAZU DER KLAERUNG DIESER FRAGEN BEI ANDEREN
RESSORTS (FINANZ - UND WIRTSCHAFTSMINISTERIUM) UND MIT
DER INDUSTRIE.

"UNTER UMSTAENDEN IST SOGAR DIE EINSCHALTUNG DES
PARLAMENTS NOTWENDIG, DA DIE VORGESCHLAGENEN
BEDINGUNGEN VON BISHERIGEN ENTSPRECHENDEN
VEREINBARUNGEN ENTSCHEIDEND ABWEICHEN."

END GERMAN LANGUAGE TEXT

5. AFTER THE ABOVE TEXT WAS DELIVERED, SCHNELL TOLD
THE EMBASSY BY TELEPHONE THAT HIS DELEGATION WOULD BE
HAPPY TO MEET WITH THE LA BERGE DELEGATION IN BONN AT
ANY TIME AFTER 1200 LOCAL BONN TIME JANUARY 26.

(FYI: SCHNELL IS CURRENTLY SCHEDULED TO ATTEND A
CONFERENCE IN MUNICH ON JANUARY 28).
STOESSEL

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